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DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (MFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 Fishers Lane , Room 1061
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Hello,

This letter is to ENCOURAGE you to SERIOUSLY CONSIDER your votes regarding forced molting of laying hens. It is UNFATHOMABLE to think egg producers can starve hens for up to fourteen days to force molting, thus increasing egg laying. It has been documented that this type of TORTURE REDUCES IMMUNE SYSTEM FUNCTION in the hens, and gives an open INVITATION TO SALMONELLA in the hens and their eggs, a known danger to the health, and frequently, lives of those who eat the eggs and/or hens, and certainly makes handling the raw contents of the eggs and uncooked chickens risky for everyone in our culture.

INSTEAD of printing warnings on egg cartons and regulating egg refrigeration temperatures to keep the salmonella under control BEFORE the consumer purchases them, why not work to ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM at the source - FORCED MOLTING.

I find it INCREDIBLE that EGG PRODUCERS are ALLOWED to treat their hens this way, yet WE DO HAVE ANTI-CRUELTY LAWS. Cattle, hogs, sheep, dogs and cats, even the lowly rat has rights beyond what these poor hens must endure. If I failed to feed and water my dog and cat for more than two days, I could be arrested on cruelty to animal charges. Yet, these farmers can do it for up to fourteen days and get away with it because they are doing it to a chickens. Why are these people above the law? Let's face it, THESE FARMERS are using these poor hens not only FOR PROFIT, but also GREED.

We human beings must realize that EVERY LIVING THING, including LAYING HENS, on this planet has a right to be TREATED with RESPECT and CARE. Profit can be made from egg farming, and the hens can be healthy - if only the farmers will grant the HENS the basic need to have a HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT to live in, and NOT be subjected to such TORTUROUS conditions which lead to such terrible CONTAMINATION and illnesses.

Let's KEEP our CHICKENS and OURSELVES HEALTHY - CLEAN UP the EGG BUSINESS and SEVERELY PUNISH those who DO NOT COMPLY

Sincerely.

Leigh J. Benton

96P-0418

C163

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C 163*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ c *16 Y*
96P-0418/ *C 163*